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9 September 1983

WORLDWIDE REPORT
EPIDEMIOLOGY

No. 331

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COSTA RICA

BRIEFS

MALARIA PROMPTS EMERGENCY--San Jose, 20 Aug (DPA)--The Costa Rican Government has declared a national emergency in the border area near Nicaragua. The government announced the measure because "there are outbreaks of malaria, a disease that was eradicated in Costa Rica many years ago." According to the authorities, the large number of Nicaraguan refugees that have crossed to Costa Rica in recent months brought the disease. There are 600 Nicaraguan refugees in the camps. The government will clamp down on health measures throughout the region, implementing stringent hygienic control measures.
[Text] [PA210417 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0110 GMT 21 Aug 83]

CSO: 5400/2124

BRIEFS

DENGUE FEVER IN EAST JAVA--East Java is a province which is affected by dengue fever. However, as a result of a number of efforts, the death rate from dengue fever has fallen sharply. In 1968, when dengue fever was recognized as a dangerous disease, the death rate from this disease was about 41 percent of all cases. In 1983 it is about seven percent. And if research efforts continue to be expanded, this figure can be brought down even further. Dr R. Soedijono, the chief of the Disease Prevention Service (P2) of the East Java Health Service, states that the people are beginning to be aware of the importance of healthful surroundings. In addition, persons suffering from the disease who are brought to the hospitals will immediately be treated by infusions of liquids. For comparative purposes, it is noted that in 1979 in East Java there were 21 regencies, part of whose areas were affected by dengue fever. In 1983, 31 regencies were affected by the disease. These figures do not mean that the entire regencies concerned were affected by dengue fever, but perhaps only in a few villages, Dr R. Soedijono said. Excerpts / Surabaya SURABAYA POST in Indonesian 7 Jun 83 p 2/ 5170

PROBLEM OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES--Dr Adhyatma, director general of the Office for the Eradication of Communicable Diseases, states that the problem of communicable diseases is still with us, although overall progress has been made in this connection over a period of time covered by three 5-year plans. In testimony before Committee VIII of Parliament, presided over by Dr Sukantyo Yahya, the deputy chairman, on Thursday 23 June in Jakarta, Doctor Adhyatma said that a survey of households carried out by the Ministry of Health in 1980 showed that communicable disease was the cause for 57.2 percent of all illness, and about 65 percent of all deaths were caused by communicable diseases. He said that the primary cause of communicable disease was infections of the upper and lower respiratory passages, skin diseases, diarrhea, tuberculosis, tetanus, and illnesses of the digestive system. Up to now the effort to prevent the spread of communicable diseases has not been enough to deal with all such diseases. This has depended on the epidemiology of the disease concerned, the technology available to wipe it out, and the appropriateness and suitability, as well as the provisions of existing law. In this connection the policy being followed in terms of the techniques of disease control involves the prevention and wiping out of communicable disease by breaking the weakest link in the chain for the spread of the disease through improvement of the physical surroundings, immunization, medical treatment, and instructing the people. Text / Surabaya SURABAYA POST in Indonesian 23 Jun 83 p 1/ 5170

IVORY COAST

ONCHOCERCIASIS RAVAGES VILLAGE OF BIBITA

Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 22 Jul 83 pp 1, 18, 19

[Article by Ambroise Djidji: "Bibita Ravaged by Onchocerciasis"]

[Text] It was thought to be confined to the northern and northwestern parts of the country. Now it has appeared in western Ivory Coast, in the small village of Bibita in the sub-prefecture of Facobly.

Men, women and children--in fact, a large part of the population of that village--are suffering from onchocerciasis.

The sub-prefect of Facobly has offered to relocate the people elsewhere, to another site, but apparently the villagers turned the offer down. That is a normal reaction considering the African's attachment to his native soil.

It is up to the Ministry of Public Health to decide what measures can be taken in the face of this tragedy.

Last year, in a number of villages in the northern part of the country, up to 80 percent of the inhabitants were hit by this terrible affliction.

Bibita, a village located about 70 km from Facobly, the chief town of the sub-prefecture of the same name, has been struck by onchocerciasis. The whole population of about 150 has been affected in one way or another: total blindness for some, who have to be led around by children who themselves are showing symptoms of the disease. People of every age, youngsters and the elderly, men and women, are waiting fatalistically for the day when their eyes will be closed for all eternity. But because of respect for tradition (symbolized by two sacred huts) the inhabitants do not want to hear any talk of relocating the village. In their "eyes," life has no value apart from their beliefs. It is poignant to see the tragedy of these people.

The population of this little locality of Bibita claim never to have been visited by a medical team either for study or for treatment. The village itself is located two kilometers from the Sassandra River, the nesting place for the flies which carry the microbe and whose bite generally brings on this "eye disease." The inhabitants inform us that they used to live 10 km from the main road connecting Man and Seguela. Then, on the orders of the colonial authorities, they moved to a location 9 km from the road. But because of inadequate water supplies, the administrative authorities required them to move closer to the river, where the village is presently situated just 2 km from the waters of the Sassandra. "But the incidence of disease has gone up since these relocations," they realize. And because of this calamity a number of inhabitants have opted to flee the village in favor of less inclement regions. And a large number of the deserters are young people. Evidence of this: at the meeting to welcome the sub-prefect, Mr Coulibaly Drougnan, the chief medical officer of the Facobly health center, Mr Oulai Siaba Michel, and the team of visiting journalists, not a single young person could be seen. The population is thus made up of the elderly, middle-aged men and women, and small children. The village has been left to the helpless and others no better off.

The disease primarily affects the eyes and causes blindness. Onchocerciasis is characterized by intense itching; small nodules or cysts, infested with filaria, appear on the body. One may also see some digestive problems and headaches due to the migration of the filaria toward the optic nerve.

Reaction was quite strong to the proposal to relocate the village: "Relocating the village (for the third time!) constantly is no good," says one inhabitant. Wherever you go there is death and disease. The village has two sacred huts that it is impossible to relocate. And when we relocated the first village, 12 cows and dogs had to be sacrificed. And those who gave those animals to be sacrificed are now dead," he said reverently. Another inhabitant confirmed that disclosure. "We are no longer wealthy enough to give cattle and dogs, and we refuse to have human beings die so the village can move. I myself, if I ever agreed to moving the village, would be signing my own death warrant." A third joined the conversation to express the feelings of the whole village: "The only solution would be the creation of a medical station to treat us here, and a school for our children. It is God who created the whole world, and it is He who also created the disease. You cannot move the village because of the disease. You cannot run away from the disease." In the face of such pure and simple fatalism, logical arguments lose all meaning and importance. It is poignant to see the tragedy of these people, to see the devastating effects of onchocerciasis throughout the areas adjacent to the Sassandra River. Several other villages under Facobly's jurisdiction are also infected. These include Taobly, Kanebly, Semien (to a lesser degree) and the Soribadougou encampment. Thus, it is sickening to see this fatalism and resignation that has affected all these people.

Only One Solution: Move the Villages

The chief medical officer of the Facobly health center dismisses the objections of the people. Because "medically speaking, onchocerciasis is transmitted by

"similis" flies that congregate on the banks of the big rivers. Establishing a health center means bringing personnel here. Now I cannot see any paramedics being willing to serve on the banks of this river, knowing ahead of time the consequences of such an assignment. To get paramedics to come, you will have to move the village at least 20 km from the river." Relocation is the solution he advocates. "For example, the medical team sent to an area to treat the affliction must examine and identify those who are infected before moving on to treatment. Even if the patient has a very 'thick hide,' it takes 21 days to neutralize the filaria and the micro-filaria. When a subject is treated for the disease, he is not rendered immune to onchocerciasis. After treatment, the person must leave the village so he will not be bitten by the flies that transmit the onchocerciasis," the chief medical officer concluded. As for the sub-prefect of Facobly, Mr Coulibaly Drougnan, he emphasized that the villagers' objections are unrealistic and said the villagers must be persuaded to accept a solution that is for the best interests of the people. "A village of 150 inhabitants cannot have its own health center or school, especially when it is close to Semien.

"We cannot meet their demands. So we are going to move ahead with an educational campaign, in collaboration with the indigenous cadres from the village and the region. If we find a solution, we will look for a new site, and the infrastructure needed for its development will be provided. Otherwise, we may have to impose a solution."

Such is the dilemma of a village where onchocerciasis is running rampant, a village whose huts are inhabited only by the elderly, women and children. The young people have chosen to leave, to get far away from that accursed place where blindness is the common fate of the inhabitants. But here, out of stoicism reinforced by fatalism, the people do not want to abandon a village condemned to decline. Can a solution to this agonizing dilemma be found, so that the sub-prefecture can save a whole populace ravaged by onchocerciasis?

9516
CSO: 3419/1136

KEAMANN DECLARED CHOLERA- INFECTED DISTRICT

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 24 Jul 83 p 8

[Text]

KUALA TERENGGANU, Sat. — The Terengganu Medical and Health Services Department will declare Kemaman a 'cholera district' following the confirmation of a 16-year-old girl as a cholera patient yesterday.

Its deputy director Dr Haji Wan Mahmood Osman, said two other districts — Kuala Terengganu and Marang — had been declared cholera areas.

He said the girl would be sent to the Kuantan General Hospital for further treatment.

He said the Medical and Health Services Department would set up a special cholera ward at the Kemaman district hospital should the situation there worsen.

Kemaman district hos-

pital health officers had taken the necessary measures by visiting the villages to give advice and information on the ways of combating the disease and chlorinating wells.

Dr Haji Wan Mahmood said the cholera epidemic in the State was under control.

Meanwhile, a source from the cholera operations room at the general hospital here said there were no cholera cases reported in the State over the last 24 hours.

He said there were now 22 patients being treated at the hospital here of whom five were cholera cases, 15 carriers and two suspected cholera victims.

He said 5,982 wells throughout the State had been chlorinated. — Bernama

CSO: 5400/4465

CHOLERA-INFECTED BEACH DECLARED 'BLACK' AREA

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 27 Jul 83 p 3

[Text]

KOTA BHARU, Tues.
— Health authorities have declared Pantai Dasar Sabak, a popular picnic beach in Kelantan, a "black" area because of the presence of cholera germs.

State Deputy Director of medical and health services, Dr Gurbakh Singh, said yesterday the sea along the beach and the Sungai Sabak were confirmed to contain cholera germs.

The public, particularly residents of Kampung Sabak, are warned against using the beach or bathing in the sea. They are also warned against using the river for washing or drinking.

He advised the public to use the water brought by PWD tankers.

On the cholera situation in Kelantan, he said three more cases were confirmed in the last 24 hours, bringing the number of confirmed victims to 423.

The latest victims

were a 42-year-old woman from Kuala Krai district, a 28-year-old woman from Pengkalan Chepa and a 23-year-old woman from Ulu Lebir, Ulu Kelantan district.

Ten carriers were detected within the same period, bringing the number to 369. Five of the new carriers are from Kuala Krai and the other five from Kota Bharu district.

Twelve people suspected of having the disease were detected — seven from Kota Bharu district, four from Tumpat and one from Kuala Krai.

Dr Gurbakh Singh said that to date, 49 cholera patients were still ward ed in the General Hospital here and the district hospital at Kuala Krai.

They comprised five confirmed cases, 13 carriers and 15 suspected cases in the General Hospital and a confirmed case, 10 carriers and five suspected cases in the district hospital. — Bernama

CSO: 5400/4465

ANOTHER RIVER FOUND TO CONTAIN CHOLERA BACTERIA

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 31 Jul 83 p 2

[Text]

KOTA BHARU, Sat. — Another river in Kok Keli, in the Tumpat district has been confirmed by the Kelantan health authorities as containing cholera bacteria. State Medical and Health Services director Datuk Dr D.H.S. Gill advised residents not to use water from the river. He said tests were being carried out on sea water at Pantai Chinta Berahi.

Total

Datuk Dr Gill said another four cholera victims had been reported. This brings the total to 427. Meanwhile, seven carriers had also been confirmed over the past 48 hours. Five of them were from here and two from Tumpat bringing the total number of carriers to 379. Two of the cases were reported at Kem Galing, one each from Sungai Karang, Bukit Setongkol and 5km, Jalan Gambang.

CSO: 5400/4465

NO LEAVE FOR MEDICAL STAFF AT KUANTAN GENERAL HOSPITAL

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 31 Jul 83 p 2

[Text] KUANTAN, Sat.--The leave of all relevant medical staff involved in the treatment of cholera patients and carriers at the Kuantan General Hospital remains frozen.

The leave of the doctors, nurses and other medical staff involved in the treatment of cholera patients and carriers in the two special wards were frozen following the recent outbreak.

Early this month Kuantan and Pekan districts were declared cholera infected areas and health authorities have been working hard to prevent the disease from spreading to other parts of Pahang.

The disease is now mainly confined to the Kuantan municipality though sporadic cases are being reported from Pekan.

In the last 24 hours five more confirmed cases and four carriers were reported from here bringing the total to 97 confirmed cases and 272 carriers.

A spokesman of the State Medical and Health Services said of the 97 confirmed cases, 91 are from Kuantan and the remainder from Pekan.

Of the 272 carriers, 212 are from the Kuantan area while the rest are from Pekan.

In Kuantan, the disease has reached epidemic proportions with cases being reported every day.

Health authorities have urged the people to eat only cooked food and drink boiled water. They have also been told not to eat in public places at least until the outbreak is over.

The disease is food-borne and hawkers and other food handlers who are carriers are responsible for its spread.

Pahang was free of cholera for four years until May this year when the first case was reported. The disease has claimed one life, that of a 78-year-old pensioner from Tanah Puteh, here, on June 23.

CSO: 5400/4465

DEPUTY HEALTH MINISTER REPORTS 'TREMENDOUS INCREASE' IN GONORRHEA

Kuching THE BORNEO POST in English 7 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Wed.--The number of gonorrhoea cases in the country could have reached epidemic proportions, Deputy Health Minister Datuk K. Pathmanaban said here today.

Datuk Pathmanaban told Bernama that the official figures recorded by the Health Ministry showed a tremendous increase over the last three years, but again these could be only a tip of the ice-berg.

The Health Ministry figures indicate that the incidence of the disease has gone up from 2,795 in 1980 to 3,969 in 1981 and last year it went up to 5,188 cases.

Datuk Pathmanaban said most of these cases were those reported at government clinics.

The number of cases notified to the Health Ministry by private doctors was infinitely low, although gonorrhoea which falls under the venereal disease category was notifiable by law, added Datuk Pathmanaban.

However the figures recorded for syphilis was 801 in 1980, 638 in 1981, and 668 in 1982. For chancroid (soft-sore) type of venereal disease the figures were even lower with 49 cases in 1980, 37 in 1981 and 40 in 1982.

Datuk Pathmanaban said that the Health Ministry might hold a meeting with the Malaysia Medical Association to plan a proper strategy of monitoring the disease.

He said, right at the moment due to a lot of sensitivity surrounding the disease, many cases are not notified to the Ministry.

Protection

Datuk Pathmanaban felt that it was in everybody's interest to ensure that the disease is tackled effectively.

Datuk Pathmanaban also felt that many members of the public were under the false impression that they could develop immunity to the disease by getting a "pre-operational" injection, or by consuming some drugs bought over the counter.

Datuk Pathmanaban said in most instances such measures never gave adequate protection.

Meanwhile, a Health Ministry spokesman said the disease has reached a stage which the Ministry regards as serious.

He said, it was important for the public to know that the disease must be treated properly.

He said, the proper way of getting treated was to ensure that a smear and culture was taken to detect whether the strain was sensitive or resistant.

About 60 per cent of gonorrhoea cases were sensitive to pencillin said the spokesman.

CSO: 5400/4454

MAURITIUS

BRIEFS

MALARIA CASES--The Health Ministry reported only 12 cases of malaria this June (more than 60 cases were reported in June 1982). Malaria cases recorded in the first 6 months of 1983 were as follows: January 34 cases; February 27; March 58; April 68; May 43; June 12. [Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 7 Aug 83 p 7]

CSO: 5400/328

MEXICO

DENGUE FEVER IN OAXACA

Tuxtla Gutierrez LA VOZ DEL SURESTE in Spanish 30 Jul 83 p 6

[Text] Pinotepa Nacional, Oaxaca--At least 40 percent of the population of the coast of Oaxaca is suffering from dengue fever, for which reason the population is running the grave risk of decimation.

The foregoing information was divulged by private physicians after an inquiry was made regarding the illness, since the Public Health clinics, IMSS [Mexican Social Security Institute] and ISSSTE [Institute of Social Security and Services for Government workers] have divulged no information and moreover, those institutions considered to be in the health sector have not lifted a finger to prevent and combat the terrible disease.

The private physicians who have been attending patients with insufficient means, who have been the most seriously affected, declared that medicine to treat the dengue sufferers is running out, for which reason it is necessary for the public health authorities to take the necessary measures.

They also called attention to the fact that a considerable number of persons, chiefly in the areas along the margin of the coast of Oaxaca, have died as a result of the dengue epidemic.

According to the foregoing it is necessary to undertake campaigns of prevention in the areas where the terrible disease has not yet broken out and combat it wherever the inhabitants are suffering the effects of the illness.

12,116
CSO: 5400/2118

MEXICO

BRIEFS

OAXACA, CHIAPAS CHAGAS DISEASE--Chagas disease will not rise to serious levels, nor will there be serious repercussions on account of it, according to Dr Alberto Cancino, head of the ISSSTE [Institute of Social Security and Services for Government Workers] Clinic. He gave this information at the conference given by Doctors Lauren and Renato Zarate in the Belisario Dominguez Auditorium. Dr Lauren and Dr Renato Zarate are researchers in the Center for Ecological Research Studies of the Southeast [CIES]. Doctors Lauren and Renato Zarate pointed out that this disease is common in Brazil and Argentina and has been detected in the States of Oaxaca and Chiapas in Mexico. The doctors agreed that the disease is transmitted by the "kissing bedbug" and the first symptoms are manifested as lesions in the peripheral nerves, causing damage to the heart. Lauren and Renato Zarate added that other possible manifestations of the disease are blockage or bleeding or ventricular auricles [as published] and that the same lesions on the nerves are manifested in dilations of the esophagus, colon and other hollow organs. The CIES researchers also informed their audience that the disease is transmitted by sexual contact or autoinnoculation from the excrement of the "kissing bedbug." They mentioned that 90 percent of the cases go unattended. They recommend careful personal cleanliness as well as preventive medicine. It should be advised that 60 physicians attended the conference. The director of the ISSSTE Clinic told them in closing: "The research of the Doctors Zarate is a medical achievement." [Text] [Tuxtla Gutierrez LA VOZ DEL SURESTE in Spanish 30 Jul 83 pp 1, 8] 12,116

CSO: 5400/2118

NICARAGUA

BRIEFS

OFFENSIVE AGAINST AEDES MOSQUITO--The Government Junta has assigned an additional amount of around 16 million cordobas to combat the Aedes Aegypti mosquito, which spreads dengue and yellow fever, in view of the fact that its presence has been detected in several parts of the country. The Aedes Aegypti and Malaria Control and Eradication Programs Directorate, which has an annual budget of 55 million cordobas, has reported that 227 brigade members have been contracted to fumigate the districts and apply abate, an innocuous insecticide, in places where water gathers. The fumigations against the mosquito began in the first week of August and will continue until next July, mainly in the cities of Masaya, Granada, Managua, Esteli, Leon, Chinandega, Juigalpa and Bluefields, since it is a predominantly urban mosquito.
[Text] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish] 13 Aug 83 p 10]

CSO: 5400/2126

PANAMA

BRIEFS

HEPATITIS CASES--More than 70 cases of hepatitis have been reported in the health centers of Veraguas Province, especially in the Canazas area. Most of the cases are children. The outbreak is probably caused by the lack of aqueducts and infected water wells. [Summary] [PA201748 Panama City YA in Spanish 19 Aug 83 p 4]

CSO: 5400/2125

'KESHAN DISEASE', ENVIRONMENTAL GEOCHEMISTRY DISCUSSED

Changchun DILI KEXUE [SCIENTIA GEOGRAPHICA SINICA] in Chinese No 2, Jun 83
pp 175-182

[Article by Yin Zhaohan [1438 2507 3352], Yue Shurong [1471 3219 1369] and He Rongzhen [6378 2837 5271], all of the Institute of Forestry and Soil Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences: "Characteristics of the Environmental Geochemistry and Its Relationship with 'Keshan Disease' in the Plateau Sandy Soil of Keshiketengqi, Nei Mongol"]

[Summary] The plateau sandy soil of Keshiketengqi (Keqi) is situated in the sheep farms of Haoluku-Budengshan. It is a long and narrow region which is 100 km across from east to west and 60 km from north to south. According to previous records, "Keshan Disease" and "Kaschim-Beck Disease" have occurred many times in this locality during the last 100 years. These diseases are of immediate harm to the health of the people's bodies and hearts. It is possible that these diseases and the characteristics of the local environment are closely related.

The characteristics of environmental geochemistry in the Keqi plateau sandy soil include being rich in silicon and poor in many trace elements, particularly water soluble selenium.

The deficiency in water soluble selenium necessarily leads to low selenium circulation in the soil-plant-animal-human body system. Water soluble selenium content of grassland soil is around 0.8 ppb; that of cultivated soil is around 0.65 ppb; the average selenium content in grain and forage grass is around 7 ppb and 6 ppb respectively; and that in sheep wool is around 25 ppb. The circulation of low selenium is interrelated with "Keshan Disease" and "White Muscle Disease" in this locality. These circumstances are probably important for the inducement of such diseases in this region.

By supplying selenium to the residents and domestic animals of this locality, the selenium levels in individuals are raised year by year. Selenium plays an important role in the prevention and cure of both "Keshan Disease" and "White Muscle Disease."

9717
CSO: 5400/4157

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

PLASMA, ERYTHROCYTE LEVELS OF SELENIUM, LIPIDS IN CHILDREN WITH 'KESHAN DISEASE'

Beijing ZHONGHUA XINXUEGUANBING ZAZHI [CHINESE JOURNAL OF CARDIOLOGY]
in Chinese No 2, Jun 83 pp 97-99

[Article by Li Fangsheng [2621 5364 3932], Bai Qianfu [4101 6197 4395] and
Guan Jinyang [7070 6855 7122], et al., all of the Department of Biochemistry,
Institute of Basic Medicine, Liaoning Academy of Medical Sciences, Shenyang:
"Plasma and Erythrocyte Levels of Selenium and Lipids in Children with
Keshan Disease and Their Pathogenetic Significance"]

[Summary] The selenium (Se) and phospholipids in erythrocyte and plasma of
children with Keshan disease and controls both in the endemic and nonendemic
regions were investigated.

The results tentatively demonstrated that the erythrocyte Se level was lower
in the Keshan group than in the control group in the endemic region, and the
Se content in both erythrocyte and plasma of the above two groups was
significantly lower than that of the control group in the nonendemic region.

The contents of total lipids and phospholipids in erythrocyte of the Keshan
group were lower than those of the controls in the endemic region, and the
contents of both were remarkably lower than those of the controls in the non-
endemic region. The characteristic changes of phospholipids in erythrocyte
(plasma membrane) and plasma were a decrease in phosphatidylcholine and an
increase in lysophospholipids and phosphatidylethanolamine.

9717
CSO: 5400/4156

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

H-FEVER DEATHS IN ILOILO--AT LEAST two students died and a still undetermined number of persons fell ill after an outbreak of H-fever hit Iloilo city last week, the Ministry of Health reported yesterday. The fatalities were reportedly students of the Assumption High School there. The incident has caused a mild furor over the city, and some parents did not allow their children to go to school yesterday. [Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 9 Aug 83 p 6]

CSO: 5400/4464

SOUTH AFRICA

BRIEFS

MEASLES HITS POLICE COLLEGE--Between 50 and 60 trainee policemen are being treated for measles at the police college in Pretoria. The rest of the trainees will not be allowed to see visitors and all weekend passes have been cancelled until August 28. The commanding officer of the police college, Brigadier F. Reyneke, said the trainees were not under quarantine, but they wanted to limit the movement of people into and out of the college to prevent the disease from spreading. Trainees who participated in sport, for example rugby players, would be examined and if they had any symptoms, they would not be allowed to leave the college to play in matches.--SAPA [Text] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 22 Aug 83 p 11]

RABIES KILLS CHILDREN--Durban--A five-year-old girl died from rabies in a kwaZulu hospital two weeks ago, about four months after being bitten by a dog. The dog also bit a boy (11) who died in April. Dr Elizabeth Thalmeier, superintendent of Nkandla Hospital, said a third patient, suspected of having rabies, was being treated. The girl and the boy were bitten in separate incidents at the beginning of March. Local people caught the dog and killed it. Rabies was not suspected until the children became ill. [Text] [Johannesburg THE STAR in English 10 Aug 83 p 1]

CSO: 5400/325

TANZANIA

BRIEFS

ZANZIBAR MALARIA RESEARCH--The anti-malaria unit in Zanzibar is conducting a research to determine the degree of malaria spread in the isles as part of the campaign to stamp out the disease launched last week. The Director of the Malaria Control Project in Zanzibar, Dr. Juma Muchi, told SHIHATA yesterday that the research, which is assisted by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) entails taking of blood samples from malaria cases and giving curative treatment to patients. Other activities involve vector identification and how malaria carrier mosquitoes respond to various insecticides, including DDT, which he said had so far proved ineffective against mosquitoes. He revealed, however, that a total of about 732m/- (61 million dollars) would be used in the campaign of which about 168m/- (14 million dollars) have been provided by the USAID while the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government had allotted 48m/- towards the project. [Text] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 10 Aug 83 p 1]

CSO: 5400/323

FAO SIGNS AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE RINDERPEST DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 9 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

THE Ministry of Livestock Development and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) yesterday signed an agreement under which FAO will provide Tanzania with a rinderpest diagnostic laboratory.

The unit, worth about 756,000/- (63,000 US dollars), is part of FAO's assistance to Tanzania under an emergency request by the Government following the outbreak of rinderpest. This will be the third assistance by FAO.

The agreement was signed by the Minister for Livestock Development, Ndugu Herman Kirigini, and the FAO resident representative, Dr David Wozab.

Under the agreement, which became effective since July this year, the FAO would provide the laboratory equipment which includes a deep freezer and three automatic media dispenser syringes as well as the services of consultant virologist would train Tanzanians how to operate the equipment.

Ndugu Kirigini said the assistance would enhance the diagnostic capacity of the country in identifying rinderpest. Formerly, the country had to send blood serums to Miguga, Kenya, for confirmation.

The equipment would be

based at the Temeke Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL). The Government will provide basic infrastructure for installation of the equipment, some of which will arrive later in the country. The project is scheduled for completion by May next year.

The last case of rinderpest in Tanzania occurred in 1965. Since then the country was regarded rinderpest-free for over 15 years. The re-surfacing of this vital and highly contagious disease has been reported in a number of African countries. Experts say the re-surfacing was because of failure to maintain vaccinations.

The present outbreak, was first confirmed serologically in buffaloes in April, last year, in Serengeti and later in November in Ngorongoro and Shambrai divisions, Kiteto District in Arusha Region.

In December last year, the situation became more serious and the Government again requested emergency support to stop the spread of the disease.

The request was met last March with 2,916,000/- worth of equipment, vaccines and tyres and tubes for vehicles.

Ndugu Kirigini thanked FAO for its assistance, saying that he was hopeful that the aid would further consolidate the country's efforts to wipe-out the diseases.

CSO: 5400/323

TANZANIA

BRIEFS

RUKWA REGION RINDERPEST CAMPAIGN--Sumbawanga--Rukwa Region is soon to launch rinderpest campaign during which 3,000 head of cattle will be vaccinated. The Regional Livestock Development Officer, Dr. John Soi, told SHIHATA recently that preparations for the campaign were going on. The campaign would be conducted in Sumbawanga and Nkansi districts only, he said. [Text] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 22 Aug 83 p 3]

CSO: 5400/326

MEXICO

BRIEFS

COFFEE RUST IN CHIAPAS--A high percentage of the coffee groves in Chiapas are affected by the disease called "coffee rust," according to a member of the Union of Unions of Coffee Producers, when he was interviewed in this city. The virus has spread alarmingly, without the Secretariat of Agriculture and Hydraulic resources doing anything to remedy the problem through the Plant Health Authority, up to now. He lamented that the dependencies charged with preventing and combating coffee rust devote themselves to public relations without fulfilling their mission, which indicates that they are little interested in whether or not coffee production is affected by the terrible plague. He came down to cases by saying that the coffee groves in the municipalities of Las Margaritas, Yajalon and Ososingo have been seriously damaged by the rust, which has gravely accentuated the discouragement of the peasants in those regions. He added that the coffee plant disease spread here from Central America and in spite of many declarations to the effect that it would be controlled at the border, that was not done. Proof of this is seen in the fact that now the coffee groves in Chiapas are beginning to show signs of the disease and it will not be long before it spreads to the coffee plantations of the States of Oaxaca, Veracruz, etc. [Text] [Tuxtla Gutierrez LA VOZ DEL SURESTE in Spanish 17 Jul 83 p 3] 12,116

CSO: 5400/2118

LOCUST SITUATION IN BALUCHISTAN FLARES UP

Karachi DAWN in English 4 Aug 83 p 5

[Text]

The locust situation in Baluchistan has suddenly flared up, says an official handout.

A low flying mature locust swarm of medium density measuring about four square k.m was intercepted in Lasbella district at Wingoi on Sunday. It was controlled immediately by spraying with exhaust nozzles method. Almost 100 per cent mortality of the swarm was claimed.

Earlier FAO locust officer in UAE (Dubai) had reported gregarious locust activities including Pink Swarm in the area during May and June. The UAE Government had immediately started control operations. Even then it was expected that some escape may reach Pakistan during their usual westward migration in June and July.

The plant protection Department had, therefore, posted extra staff at strategic points in the desert areas to intercept the infiltration, the Press release said.

The remaining swarm breeding areas of Pakistan are free from gregarious locust activities. Stray adult population ranging from 10500-14500 Sq. k.m. was however reported from Lasbela, Tharparkar, Nara and Cholistan deserts.

Summer breeding zones received wide spread rainfall and therefore, field conditions, in most of the areas, are favourable for locust breeding. Small scale solitary breeding may take place during the coming months.

The Department has taken precautionary measures and established 15 additional sub-posts at strategic points in the desert areas of the country. In addition six permanent posts are already operating in the desert. Each outpost and sub-outpost is well staffed and equipped with survey vehicles and stock of pesticide. Meanwhile, three aircraft have been deployed at Chhore, Sukkur and Rahimyar Khan for locust survey work. One aircraft is kept standby at Karachi.

CSO: 5400/4737

ARMYWORM INFESTATION SPREADS TO OTHER TOWNS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 13 Aug 83 p 5

[Text]

COTABATO CITY
— The armyworm infestation has spread to other towns in Maguindanao and North Cotabato, it was learned here yesterday.

Batasang Pampook (regional legislative assembly) member Conte Mangelen reported to lupong tagapagpaganap ng pook Chairman Simeon Datumanong that army worms have affected over 10,000 hectares of farmlands in the assemblyman's town of Datu Paglas and some 15,900 hectares of cornfields in Liguasan, a marshy portion of Buluan town.

Mangelen said most of the affected rice-lands and corn fields

are covered by the government's Masagana and Maisagana programs, while some are under the Planters Product financing scheme.

The Ministry of Agriculture has intensified its pest control campaign in the affected municipalities, according to Region 12 Assistant Agriculture Director Mauro Arcega.

Pest control field-men in other towns of Maguindanao and North Cotabato have also been alerted on the army worms.

The army worm attack started late last month in South Cotabato where it destroyed over 1,000 hectares of corn plants about to be harvested. (T. Rimando)

CSO: 5400/4466

END